successful he returned to Ireland, where he became famous on the Munster Circuit, more for his wit and convivial good living than for his ability or success as a barrister. Often short of cash, he would even laugh at his own predicament, and once, when an accommodating friend signed a bill for him and requested that he be sure to take it up when it became due, he replied: "Of course, I will—and the protest along with it."

Lysaght's politics were doubtful, for whilst writing ballads against the Union, he accepted £500 from Castlereagh to write lampoons against the Anti-Union members.

He was an excellent lyric poet, and Moore wrote of him: — "I look back upon Lysaght with feelings of love. All his words were like drops of music." On his death, Dr. Griffin, his son-in-law, and later Protestant Bishop of Limerick, published a collection of his poetry, together with a short biographical note. While this memoir is sympathetic, the collection is not complete, for the Bishop says: —

"It has become necessary to omit those lyric strains which produced a Tyrtean effect at a certain period not yet forgotten."

"It can hardly be on these grounds that the "Rakes of Mallow" was excluded but, however, the book included the best of Lysaght's complimentary poems as well as his most famous historical ballad on Grattan—"The Man Who Led the Van of the Irish Volunteers": —

> He watched it in its cradle and bedewed its hearse with tears,
> "A British Constitution (to Erin ever true),
> In spite of State pollution, he gained in Eighty-two.
> This gallant man who led the van of the Irish Volunteers."

Typical of Lysaght's impish humour, this ballad was composed to the air of "The British Grenadiers."

Lysaght died in 1811 in very embarrassed circumstances, and the measure of his popularity may be gauged from the fact that a subscription for the benefit of his widow and two unmarried daughters realised the very handsome sum of £2,484.

HUGH MacCURTIN

Aodh Buidhe or Hugh MacCurtin, the Irish Poet and lexicographer, was born in the parish of Kilmacreehy about the year 1680 and was given a good start on his life's work by being educated at the school of his cousin, Andrew MacCurtin at Moyglass. Hugh seems to have fought against the Williamites at the siege of Limerick and to have left Ireland with the Wild Geese. In 1693 he was in the famous regiment of Dragoons under the command of Lord Clare, and through the influence of Isabella O'Brien, later to become the wife of Sorley M. MacDonnell, of Kilkee, he became tutor to Lord Clare's family and stayed in the post for seven years. In 1714 he returned to Ireland and stayed in Dublin for some time. While there he published in two parts "A Brief Discourse in Vindication of the Antiquity

of Ireland." This was an attack on Cox's **Hibernia Anglicana**, a recently-published Government-inspired work, and, as a result, MacCurtin was put in gaol. While here he worked on a grammar of the Irish language, the first ever to be written, and, in 1728, this was published for him by the Franciscans of Louvain under the title: "The Elements of the Irish Language."

In 1732, he published in Paris in conjunction with Conor O'Begley an English-Irish dictionary. While this may not have been an ideal dictionary, it is certainly a very valuable record of the County Clare vernacular of the early eighteenth century and it is introduced by a poem of MacCurtin's, the only one ever to be printed.

On the death of his cousin, Andrew, in 1749, Hugh succeeded to the hereditary title of Ollamh to the O'Briens and wrote a long dirge on the death of his cousin. Like the other poetry he wrote, it was never published, but may be found in many of the old County Clare manuscripts salved by O'Curry and others, and now in the great libraries of Ireland and England. In these manuscripts we find that MacCurtin's chief patrons were the O'Loughlens of Burren, the MacDonnells of Kilkee, and William O'Brien, Earl of Inchiquin.

In his old age Mac Curtin gave up his wandering ways and opened a small school at Knock-an-Aird in his native parish and died there in the year 1755. He was buried in old Kilmacreehy churchyard, and, although no stone was erected over his grave, his memory was kept green in the minds of the people and his old school and dwelling-house were still pointed out to visitors towards the end of the nineteenth century.

RICHARD PIERCE MacELLIGOTT.

Richard Pierce MacElligott, Celtic scholar, revolutionary, and hedge-schoolmaster, was born in Limerick in the year 1756. He was descended on one side from the McElligotts of Kerry, a branch of the O'Sullivans, and on the other from the de Lacy Evans of the County Limerick.

MacElligott taught in Limerick City, first at Peter's Cell, "a retirement peculiarly favourable to study," and later at Crosby Row, under the shadow of St. Mary's and overlooking the harbour of Limerick. His terms were four guineas a year for the day boys and thirty guineas for boarders.

The Griffin family lived close to MacElligott and Gerald Griffin was his most famous pupil. In the latter's life by his brother, Dr. Dan Griffin, several patronisingly humorous stories were told of MacElligott, and this so incensed another famous pupil of MacElligott, the Reverend Jonathan Furlong, that he wrote and published in London a pamphlet in reply. The stories were withdrawn from the second edition of Griffin's life and an adulatory paragraph inserted instead.